

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EEC

SUBJECT: IRISH REACTION TO TINDEMAN'S REPORT

1. ALTHOUGH GIVEN CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE BY THE NEWSPAPERS AND TV ON JANUARY 8 AND 9, THE TINDEMAN'S REPORT HAS NOT SPARKED MUCH INTEREST OR DEBATE HERE. THE ONLY OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE REPORT WAS A BRIEF, OFF-THE-CUFF, INTERVIEW BY THE IRISH PRIME MINISTER COSGRAVE WHO SPOKE VERY CAREFULLY. FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD HAS NOT GIVEN ANY REACTION AS YET, BUT WE UNDERSTAND HE IS WORKING ON A LENGTHY STATEMENT.

2. COSGRAVE'S COMMENTS WERE SO GUARDED THAT ONE PAPER HEADLINED "PROPOSAL ON EURO-UNION REJECTED BY TAOISEACH" WHILE ANOTHER SAID OF THE SAME INTERVIEW: "TINDEMAN'S REPORT IS USEFUL, SAYS COSGRAVE." ACTUALLY, COSGRAVE SEEMS TO HAVE PRAISED PARTS OF THE REPORT SUCH AS INCREASED POWERS FOR THE PARLIAMENT AND IMPORTANCE OF
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REGIONAL AND SOCIAL POLICIES. HOWEVER, HE STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THE

"TWO-TIER" APPROACH ON MONETARY AND ECONOMIC UNION.

3. EDITORIALS HAVE BEEN MIXED BUT GENERALLY UNENTHUSIASTIC. THE IRISH TIMES, WHILE CALLING IT A "FAIR REPORT" WHICH "COULD PROVE USEFUL," CONCLUDED: "PERHAPS THE MOST SERIOUS CRITICISM OF MR. TINDEMAN'S OFFERING IS THAT IT TENDS MORE TOWARDS THE DISCUSSION PAPER THAN THE PLAN OF ACTION. EUROPEAN UNION CAN SURVIVE AS A GOAL NOW ONLY IF SOME CONCRETE MOVES ARE MADE TOWARD IT SOON." THE IRISH PRESS SAID: "ALL IN ALL THEN, THIS DOCUMENT OF MR. TINDEMANS CAN BE SEEN AS IMPORTANT BUT NOT EARTHSHAKING. IT IS A USEFUL AND CAUTIOUS GUIDE TO THE FUTURE WHICH UNFORTUNATELY FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE POLITICIANS OR THE PLANNER, HAS MORE OF ASPIRATION THAN OF SPECIFIC GUIDELINE TO OFFER."
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